

Application No. 10/630,984
Amendment dated March 30, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 1, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 22. This sheet, which includes Figs. 21 and 22, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 21 and 22.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 4, 5, and 14 are objected to because of informalities;

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 19, 22-24, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by European Patent Publication No. 1178674 A1 to Mabuchi Keiji ("Mabuchi");

Claims 4, 5, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mabuchi; and

Claims 8-18 and 25-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The acknowledgement, in the Office Action, of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received, is noted with appreciation.

The indication, in the Office Action, that the Examiner has objections to the drawings, is noted. A formal replacement drawing for Fig. 22 is being submitted herewith showing "Prior Art". Approval of the replace drawing for Fig. 22 is respectfully requested.

By this response, claims 8 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 8 and 25, as well as all claims that depend therefrom should now be allowable.

Also by this response, claims 3, and 19-21 have been amended to change dependency such that each now depends directly from allowable claim 8. Claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 12 (which in turn depends from allowable claim 8).

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Also by this response, claims 4, 5, and 14 have been amended in accordance with the examiner's suggestions to overcome the objections to these claims.

Finally, by this response, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 22-24 and 29 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice to expedite the allowance of this application.

As a result of these amendments, it is believed that all claims should now be allowable as follows:

- Claim 8, which was indicated as allowable, has been rewritten in independent form. Moreover, claims 3-5, and 9-21 now depend from claim 8.
- Claim 25, which was indicated as allowable, has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 26-28 depend from claim 25.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 8-18 and 25-28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Objection to the Title

The objection to the title of the invention as not being descriptive is noted and a new title is presented in this Amendment which is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Claims

The objection to claims 4, 5, and 14 for formalities is respectfully traversed based on the following. By this response, claims 4, 5, and 14 have been amended in accordance with

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the examiner's suggestions to overcome the objections to these claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

The rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 7, 19, 22-24, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mabuchi, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

By this response, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 22-24, and 29 have been cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice to expedite the allowance of this application. As a result, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

By this response, claims 3-5 and 19 have been amended to depend from claim 8. Accordingly, these claims should now be allowable for at least the reason that each depends from an allowable claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 7, 19, 22-24, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mabuchi, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The rejection of claims 4, 5, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Mabuchi, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

By this response, claims 4, 5, 20 and 21 have been amended to depend (directly or indirectly) from allowable claim 8. Accordingly, these claims should now be allowable for at least the reason that each depends from an allowable claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 4, 5, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mabuchi, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

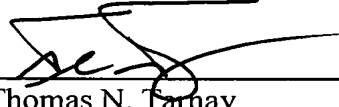
This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


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